

23 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: PP/OPS

FROM : Chief, SE

SUBJECT : Special Report (PP) Regarding BOFIEND "Apple" Team
Activities Inside Albania

1. On 1 May 1952 SE/PP project BOFIEND infiltrated the 4-man "Apple" Team across the Albanian-Greek border into Albania. This team is composed of 4 men. Three are high-level agents of King Zog, and one is a CIA trained W/T operator. The mission of this team is to contact known pro-Zogist Albanians with the aim of establishing a small penetration net, and to ex-filtrate ten or twelve men to be used as agents for future missions. A corollary mission is the collection of general intelligence.

2. Upon arrival in their operational area, which is located in north central Albania, the team instituted a standard operating procedure for W/T contact with the C station of at least once a week. Depending upon operating conditions, these contacts have varied from once to twice a week to once every two weeks. Since the time of their infiltration, the team has sent approximately eighty-five messages.

3. On 3 November an "Apple" message was received stating that the W/T operator had broken his right hand and was using his left hand to transmit messages. The following excerpt from the BOFIEND Athens Monthly Report for November outlined this situation:

"The news that RNDOMINO has broken his hand is very possibly an indication that the team is controlled, even though the operator continues to send negative Commo control signals. Commo doubts that RNDOMINO is capable of left handed sending and the case officer control challenge transmitted on 3 November was not answered in contacts on November sixth and twelfth. This later fact cannot easily be interpreted because Apple has mishandled the case officer control challenge in the past. To review our use of the case officer danger signal, we first challenged Apple with it in our second contact with the team on 27 May. Apple subsequently answered our challenges with the correct negative control signal six times (on 3, 12, 15, 18, 24, and 27 June). We again challenged Apple on

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET
SECRET

~~SECRET~~
Security Information

- 2 -

12 August after our 4 August resupply drop. Apple did not respond to the challenge during the contacts of 13, 15, 16, 18 and 24 August. We challenged Apple again on 24 and 27 August and Apple responded on the 28th of August with the control signal answer to our challenge. This message was received in the same exchange in which our challenge was again sent, and we again received the control signal from Apple in a message on 3 September. As there was evidence that these responses from Apple were due to a misunderstanding of instructions concerning the signal's use, and as Commo challenges were favorably answered, the decision was made to resupply Apple. The resupply mission was executed without incident on 6 September. Because the content of Apple's messages were consistently normal and we were able to confirm the accuracy of some of the information transmitted, we continued to work the team as probably safe. The alleged damage to RNDOMINO's hand dictates a change of procedure and extreme caution until we can determine Apple's true status."

4. On 26 November a cable was forwarded to ex-King Zog apprising him of the situation and requesting new control questions which might be put to the radio operator to determine whether he is actually in touch with the team leader and sending for him. On 8 December ex-King Zog replied with two questions to be passed to the team. One of these was significant in that it was addressed to the team leader and concerned a subject which would be known only to the King and the leader, i.e., "Do you remember in whose hands you left your silver cuff links before your departure." Zog also provided the answer which was "With the Queen (or Mistress) of the house."

5. Upon receipt of the questions the team replied that the cuff links were to be found in the leader's suitcase and requested that they not be bothered with unnecessary W/T contacts. A search of the leader's effects in Athens revealed the cuff links to be as stated. In conversation with [redacted], CPP/SE, in Alexandria, Zog stated that he felt that the team's answer, while not as expected, was accurate and genuine since they had no prearranged control signals and the leader probably had more than one set of links. As a result, the team is presently considered to be safe and action is underway to provide another W/T operator to the team equipped with enough medical supplies to attempt to save the present operators injured arm.

~~SECRET~~
Security Information